

NEWS RELEASE

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FEDERAL JURY RETURNS VERDICT IN TRIAL OF DRUG DISTRIBUTION ORGANIZATION

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 13, 2007, a federal jury in East St. Louis, Illinois, convicted **JAMES E. ROLLINS, SR.**, age 58, of San Bernardino, California; **JAMES E. ROLLINS, JR.**, age 37, of San Bernardino, California; **JOHN FROST**, age 30, of San Bernardino, California; and **RUDY SLACK**, 46, of Alton, Illinois, of one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and “crack” cocaine. In addition, **JAMES E. ROLLINS, SR.**, **JAMES E. ROLLINS, JR.**, and **JOHN FROST**, were all convicted of one additional count of distribution of cocaine. **RUDY SLACK** was convicted of one additional count of distribution of cocaine, and one additional count of distribution of “crack” cocaine. The same jury acquitted co-defendant Talia Pittman of all charges. Five co-defendants previously entered pleas of guilty in this case.

Sentencing has been scheduled for **JAMES E. ROLLINS, JR.**, and **JOHN FROST**, on June 8, 2007, in the United States District Court in East St. Louis. Sentencing for **JAMES ROLLINS, SR.**, is scheduled for June 15, 2007, and sentencing for **RUDY SLACK** is scheduled for June 22, 2007, in the United States District Court in East St. Louis.

The investigation was Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation, an initiative of the United States Department of Justice designed to investigate and prosecute large interstate and international drug distribution organizations. Participating agencies included the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Alton (Illinois) Police Department, and the Illinois State Police. The prosecutor was Assistant United States Attorney J. Christopher Moore.